

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Anth 2351.87

McLennan

C O M M U N I T Y

C O L L E G E

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

AND

INSTRUCTOR PLAN

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH 2351.87

LINDA PELON

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

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Fall 2022

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

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Course Description:

The study of human cultures. Topics may include social organization, institutions, diversity, interactions between human groups, and ethics in the discipline. (3 Lec.)

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

Must have passed the reading portion of the TSI Assessment or have credit for INRW

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

This course will expose you to many challenging ideas and a lot of information that is unfamiliar. It requires time to think and reflect as well as read and learn. The Reading Assignments are the core learning experiences and must be completed first in each unit. Your learning will be enhanced if you manage your time in a manner so that you complete the Reading Assignments when your thinking is at its best, rather than when you are tired, stressed or rushed. Then allow some time to think insightfully and creatively about what you learned before completing the Reflections and DB assignments. Procrastination is not your friend. Good time management skills and self-discipline are necessary. Prepare to invest quality time in this course. There is much to learn that will be useful in your education, career and life! Most students report that they enjoyed the course. I hope you do, too.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Linda Pelon

MCC Email: lpelon@mclennan.edu

Teacher Conference Hours: request an appointment via email for a phone conference

On Campus Contact: Gilbert Montemayor, Division Chair

gmontemayor@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: (254) 299-8928 Office Location: MAC 318

Required Text & Materials:

Title: The Essence of Anthropology

Author: Haviland, Prins, Walrath, McBride

Edition: Fourth

Publisher: Cengage

ISBN: 978-1-305-25898-3

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

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Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Students will learn that each culture is a unique “survival kit” for humans on planet Earth. Anthropological knowledge and skills will be learned and applied to better understand humans and cultures. The similarities and diversity of basic cultural institutions will be explored. This course is also designed to assist students with developing understanding and skills necessary to be a successful and responsible world citizens. A Learn/Reflect/Research/Teach strategy will be used. The Discussion Boards will provide opportunities for guided internet research and sharing of what was learned with the class. Textbook readings and assignments, TED talks, ethnographic film, brief fieldwork experiences, guided research, and discussions will be used in this course. Your instructor will be available to assist and mentor each student with an individualized learning experience designed to enhance educational, career and personal goals.

Course Structure:

The teaching strategy for this course is Learn/Reflect/Research/Teach. There will be no exams in this course. This instructor does not believe that memorizing information for a test is an effective strategy for getting knowledge into the long term memory. The course is structured into 15 Learning Units. Each unit is structured into three parts:

Reading Assignments:

Think of this as your time in the classroom learning important new information and focusing on what you have learned. You will first carefully read the assigned chapter and pay close attention to the exceptional visual information in assigned readings. Then you will have an open book worksheet structured to provide an opportunity to demonstrate that you have read and understood the content presented. The questions in this assignment are not intended to be short answer questions, but rather an opportunity to apply relevant information and key terms from the reading. Critical Thinking Skills and Communication Skills are the Core Learning Objectives applied and enhanced in these assignments. Empirical Learning Skills are applied in the analysis of images from the textbook.

Reflections:

These assignments are designed to empower you to reflect on a topic presented in the reading and discuss your opinions, questions, and how this information can be useful in your life. You will practice Reflexivity (this very important aspect of anthropology focuses on questioning your biases). It will be helpful in all that you do throughout your life. It is also an opportunity to apply some new key terms and relevant information from the chapter in your answers. Vocabulary is best enhanced by using new words. Social Responsibility and Critical Thinking Skills are Core Learning Objectives applied in these assignments.

Discussion Boards:

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The DB assignments are designed for you to explore a selected topic from the chapter and learn more about it through an internet search. Anthropological information about all things human is easily and quickly accessed online (with some instruction and guidance). You will do a search to find information you want to share with the class and then summarize what you learned from the site you selected and include the link to the site. Finally, you will provide feedback to at least two other students about the information they shared. This creates an opportunity to learn from each other and have a wider range of exposure to anthropological information. In addition to Research Skills, Communication, and Critical Thinking Skills are the Core Learning Skills applied; and Social Responsibility is the topic of focus in some DB assignments

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

Texas Core Objectives for Student Learning

1. **Critical Thinking Skills** - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. **Communication Skills** - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
3. **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
4. **Social Responsibility:** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Learn basic anthropological concepts and key terms. Apply them to a variety of cultures and topics with an emphasis on cross-cultural comparisons and application of your growing knowledge of anthropology.
2. Demonstrate increased knowledge, understanding and appreciation of human and cultural diversity.
3. Increase awareness of the contributions of anthropology for identifying and solving human problems and promoting social justice in a rapidly globalizing world.
4. Increase knowledge and acceptance of social responsibility by learning and practicing the positive use of soft power and individual action.
5. Demonstrate a basic ability to compare, contrast and understand universal human cultural systems (political, medical, legal, economic, linguistic, artistic, family and other groupings, spirituality and religion, and more)

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6. Improve awareness of personal characteristics that can be developed to enhance success as a good global citizen
 7. Understand anthropological ethics and develop resources to continue improving an anthropological understanding of a globalizing human reality.
 8. Enhance research skills and the ability to critically consider the information and biases of sources available on the internet.

Course Outline or Schedule:

Learning Units

August 22-28: Unit 1 The Four Fields of Anthropology, Ethics, Globalization (Chapter 1)

Aug 28-Sept 4: Unit 2 The Characteristics of Culture (Chapter 8)

Sept 4-11: Unit 3 Ethnographic Research: History, Methods, and Theories (Chapter 1; pp 5-8 and online sources will be used)

Sept 11-18: Unit 4 Human Origins (Chapter 4)

Sept 18-25 Unit 5 Language and Communication (Chapter 9)

Sept 25- Oct 2: Unit 6 Social Identity, Personality, and Gender (Chapter 10)

Oct 2-9: Unit 7 Subsistence and Exchange (Chapter 11)

Oct 9-16: Unit 8: Sex, Marriage, and Family (Chapter 12)

Oct 16-23: Unit 9: Kinship and Other Forms of Grouping (Chapter 13)

Oct 23-30: Unit 10: Politics, Power, and Violence (Chapter 14)

Oct 30- Nov 6: Unit 11: Spirituality, Religion, and the Supernatural (Chapter 15)

Nov 6-13: Unit 12 The Arts (online resources will be used)

Nov 13-20: Unit 13: Processes of Change and Globalization (Chapter 16)

Nov 20-27: Unit 14: Applied Anthropology (online resources will be used)

Nov 27-Dec 2 (last day of class): Unit 15: Course Conclusion/Final Reflections

Dec 5-8: Final Exams (no final exam in this course)

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Course Grading Information:

The course is structured into **15 Learning Units** and each Learning Unit has three parts (**Readings, Reflections, and Discussion Boards**) **Each of these parts is worth 1/3 of your grade.** The depth of thought and creativity of your work, application of key terms from your readings, application of newly learned anthropological information relevant to your assignments will be evaluated to determine your grade. Complete responses to all parts of the assignment are also very important. Additional information/instruction will be provided with each learning unit.

Grades for each assignment and Discussion Board are based on a 100 point system.

In addition, students can earn up to 5 extra credit points. These points are added to your final course average and require an investment in an extra learning experience in one of the four fields of anthropology. For example, a trip to the zoo to observe primates or a trip to a Farmer's Market as a participant-observer. These learning experiences are designed to be fun and interesting and to expose you to field methods in anthropology.

Penalties for violations of **academic integrity** are serious with a wide range of consequences, starting with earning a 0 for the work with the violation. Please visit <https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity/> to ensure you understand MCC policies and the behaviors that can result in a wide range of consequences.

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

Ten points will be deducted for unexcused work submitted late. If late work is not submitted within one week of the due date then a zero will be recorded for that assignment. If there is a situation that justifies an extension then it is necessary to discuss this with the instructor ASAP.

DBs cannot be made up. However, an alternate assignment can be completed. These assignments require a larger time investment than the DB.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

The expectations for student behavior in an online course can be found at

<https://www.rasmussen.edu/student-experience/college-life/netiquette-guidelines-every-online-student-needs-to-know/> Please read and follow these guidelines. Also, please make your contributing post as early as possible for your Discussion Boards to provide time for your classmates to respond.

*** [Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement](https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity/)**
(www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)

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It is the responsibility of each student to comply with the laws regarding plagiarism. Cutting and pasting content from an online source without providing credit to the creator is an example of plagiarism. There are many online sources to inform you about this important topic. It is a very serious offense that all students should avoid. You will be held accountable to the policies of the MCC Academic Integrity policies, so please ensure you visit the link above and understand your responsibilities.

* [Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

Student attendance for this online course is determined by participation on time in the Discussion Boards.

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ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit <https://www.mclennan.edu/disability/>.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <https://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/incidentLandingPageV2-MCC.asp>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at <https://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/>. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you

or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>.

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity/> for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy regarding college email, which can be found at <https://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/student-email/>.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.